GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:324
ANSWERED ON:17.11.2016
Incidents of Fire
Senthilnathan Shri PR.;Sundaram Shri P.R.

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of incidents of fire took place in the coal mines in the country during the last three years and the current year alongwith the reasons for such fires, State and mine-wise;
(b) whether the Director General of Mines Safety has taken appropriate steps to prevent such fire incidents and if so, the details thereof;
(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to install and commission adequate number of fire protection systems in all the coal mines in the country;
(d) the amount earmarked and disbursed to ensure installation of adequate fire safety and fire protection systems in all the coal mines of the country; and
(e) whether the Union Government has envisaged any further precautionary fire protection measures in all the coal mines in the country, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER, NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

Reply (a):Company-wise details of incidents of fire that took place in mines of Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries during the last three years and the current year along with the reasons for such fires, State and mine-wise is given in Annexure.
Reply (b): Official of DGMS during their routine inspection of the mine apprises the management about the dangers of fire in the mines and management is directed to take precautions accordingly. On being reported, all fires are properly attended by the officers of DGMS at the earliest possible time and appropriate steps are taken to prevent recurrence. Most of the Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (H.E.M.M.) is provided with Fully/Semi-automatic Fire Detection and Suppression System (F.D.S.S.). The management of coal companies have installed fire protection system in their mines and also independent control room is setup to monitor in case of any eventuality.
Reply (c): Adequate arrangements for fire protection are provided in all coal mines of CIL and its subsidiary as per various provisions stipulated under the Coal Mines Regulations- 1957 and also as per special conditions, if any, imposed by DGMS.
Reply (d): Necessary funds as required for installation of adequate safety arrangement for fire protection system in all mines of CIL and its subsidiary companies are being provided. Subsidiary-wise status of funds allocated and disbursed/ utilized under safety capital head for last three years from 2013-14 to 2015-16 and funds allocated under safety capital head for the current year 2016-17 are given as under:
(Amount in Rs. Lakhs)
Companies Under Safety Capital Head (2013-14) Under Safety Capital Head (2014-15) Under Safety Capital Head (2015-16) Under Safety Capital Head (2016-17)
Fund Allocated Fund Utilized Fund Allocated Fund Utilized Fund Allocated Fund Utilized Fund Allocated
ECL 4316.00 4136.00 7975.00 4598.00 6628.00 4450.00 6479.00
BCCL 3585.46 1654.00 2524.38 2034.65 2263.98 2008.65 2270.51
CCL 1225.22 578.84 1162.65 879.40 656.74 500.06 1019.82
NCL 614.00 5.92 104.00 72.00 1316.00 1316.00 840.00
WCL 325.00 376.3 533.00 205.47 1200.00 761.41 800.00
SECL 2600.00 950.27 2000.00 105.00 1346.60 350.00 4227.00
MCL 1141.58 970.34 961.44 826.83 715.32 679.55 941.00
NEC 150.67 37.30 72.59 45.79 135.10 57.23 261.63
CIL (Total) 13957.93
8708.97
15333.06
8767.14
14261.74
10122.90

Reply (e): Apart from steps being taken as per various provisions stipulated under statutes and conditions imposed in DGMS permission, the following precautionary fire protection measures are been taken for implementation in phased manner in the mines of CIL and its subsidiary companies:

1. Using Gas Chromatograph for quicker and accurate mine air sample analysis.
2. Using online Environmental Tele-Monitoring System (ETMS) for Continuous monitoring of the mine atmosphere in all degree-III gassy and fiery underground mines.
3. Nitrogen flushing in fire affected areas.
4. Use of quick setting materials for construction of isolation stopping.
5. On-going R&D projects on fire topics and ranking of coal seams as per susceptibility to spontaneous heating / mine fire.
6. Detection of mine fire through satellite remote sensing imagery.
7. Use of automatic fire detection and suppression system in large HEMM in OC mines.

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Annexure
Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) and Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL):No incidents of mine fire during the last three years and the current year.
Western Coalfields Limited (WCL):
Year − 2013:
Period Mine& State Reason of Fire
From To
05/02/13 06/02/13 Mathani, Madhya Pradesh Spontaneous heating
01/07/13 01/07/13 Vishnupuri-1, Madhya Pradesh Spontaneous heating
17.8.13 18.8.13 Saoner-3, Maharastra Spontaneous heating
Year 2014:
Period Mine& State Reason of Fire
From To
03/03/14 03/03/14 Saoner-3,Maharastra Spontaneous heating
12/07/14 12/07/14 SilewaraUG,Maharastra Spontaneous heating
13/9/14 15/9/14 DRC 6,7&8, Maharastra Spontaneous heating. Mine was temporarily closed and re-opened on 25.03.2015
Year 2015:
Period Mine& State Reason of Fire
From To
06.04.15 09/04/15 DRC 4&5, Maharastra Spontaneous heating
16.07.15 27.07.15 BC 3&4 Pits, Maharastra Spontaneous heating
24.08.15 24.08.15 Nehariya, Madhya Pradesh Spontaneous heating
16.10.15 17.10.15 Mohan, Madhya Pradesh Spontaneous heating
Year 2016 (upto October):
Period Mine& State Reason of Fire
From To
20.01.16 23.01.16 Visnhupuri-2, Madhya Pradesh Spontaneous heating
South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL):
The details of coal mine fire/ spontaneous heating for last 3 years & current year is given below;
Year Name of Mines State Reasons Occurrence of fire / spontaneous heating
2013 NCPH (R-6 mine) Chhattisgarh Sp. heating 2nd May, 2013
2014 Nil - - -
2015 Kapildhara Madhya Pradesh Sp. heating August, 2015
2016 Nil - - -

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited:
During the period, there is one case of fire due to spontaneous heating which was detected in Orient Mine No-3on 11/08/2015 and was subsequently sealed off on 15/08/2015.Further the mine was re-opened on 15/12/2015 successfully.